

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 02258 281559Z

66

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 OMB-01 IO-10 /083 W

----- 098077

R 281304Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2456

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2258

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF

SUBJECT: SADAT REFUSES RECEIVE PLO DELEGATION

SUMMARY. FOLLOWING ISSUANCE OF PLO EX-COMM'S WARNING TO ARAB NATION THAT SECOND SINAI DISENGAGEMENT WOULD BE "RENUNCIATION OF ARAB CAUSE", SADAT HAS DECLINED RECEIVE PLO DEL AND HAS ANNOUNCED HE WILL DISCUSS ISSUE ONLY WITH ENTIRE PLO EX-COMM. GOE REFUSAL TO ACCEPT PUBLIC INSULT IS NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW (A) EXISTING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 02258 281559Z

IRRITATION HERE AT RECENT PLO PUBLIC SNIPING AT EGYPT'S

ARABISM AND (B) SADAT'S ANNOUNCED DETERMINATION SEEK ACCEPTABLE SINAI AGREEMENT DURING SECRETARY'S UPCOMING VISIT. GOE HAS CONFIDENCE THAT ITS FOREIGN POLICY OFFERS BEST CHANCE FOR COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT, AND BELIEVES THAT ULTIMATELY PLO MODERATES WILL BE FORCED TO WORK THROUGH EGYPT, IF ONLY BECAUSE OF GOE'S CHANNEL TO USG, IF PALESTINIAN STATE IS TO EMERGE IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST MAJOR DISAGREEMENT WITH PALESTINIANS GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY BY GOE SINCE OCTOBER WAR GETS BANNER HEADLINES IN ALL ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILIES FEB. 28: "SADAT REFUSES RECEIVE PLO DELEGATION".

2. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS LEADING TO THIS DRAMATIC HEADLINE IS, TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, AS FOLLOWS. PLO EX-COMM ISSUED STATEMENT FOLLOWING MEETING FEB 26 WHICH WAS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF EGYPTIAN ME POLICY, AND ANNOUNCED PLO WOULD BE BOUND BY ANY "RESOLUTION" CONCERNING PALESTINIAN CAUSE OR FUTURE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WHICH MAY RESULT FROM PARTIAL SETTLEMENT IN SINAI. WE UNDERSTAND STATEMENT WAS CARRIED FEB 27 BY VOICE OF PALESTINE FROM CAIRO WHICH ALSO PROVIDED NAMES OF FIVE-MAN DELEGATION WHICH PLO EX-COMM INTENDED TO SEND TO CAIRO TO DISCUSS RECENT ME DEVELOPMENTS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND FOMIN FAHMY. RELIABLE LOCAL EMPLOYEE WHO HEARD BROADCAST TELLS US AMONG FIVE WERE QADDUMI, SA'ID KAMAL, RIBHI AWAD, AND YASIR ADB RIBHU. INCLUSION OF ABD RIBHU WOULD BE PARTICULARLY RESENTED BY GOE; SADAT HIMSELF IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN IRRITATED BY ABD RIBHU'S STRONGLY ANTI-EGYPTIAN REMARKS IN BEIRUT OVER LAST FEW WEEKS.

3. SA'ID KAMAL AND RIBHI AWAD RETURNED FROM BEIRUT AND MET FAHMY FEB 27 OFFICIALLY TO COMMUNICATE DESIRE OF PLO EX-COMM TO SEND DELEGATION TO CAIRO. ALMOST IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MEETING AN OFFICIAL GOE STATEMENT WAS ISSUED ANNOUNCING PRESIDENT SADAT HAS REFUSED TO RECEIVE THIS DELEGATION AND HAS INSISTED, INSTEAD, THAT THE ENTIRE EX-COMM COME TO CAIRO IF IT WISHES TO DISCUSS WITH HIM ANY ISSUE PERTAINING TO THE PALESTINE QUESTION AND THE "EGYPTIAN PALESTINE MOVES".

4. A RESPONSIBLE SOURCE TOLD AHAM THAT IN REJECTING THE PLO STATEMENT IN LETTER AND SPIRIT (THIS SHOULD BE READ AS OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION THAT GOE HAS REJECTED ENTIRE STATEMENT AND NOT JUST CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 02258 281559Z

REFUSED TO RECEIVE PLO DEL), EGYPT WANTS TO KNOW THE AIM BEHIND IT, THE OBJECTIVES OF SUCH A CAMPAIGN, AND WHY PLO REPEATS WORDS WHICH IT WELL KNOWS ARE DEVOID OF TRUTH. SOURCE REPORTEDLY ADDED EGYPT CALLS ON PLO TO SEND FULL EX-COMM TO CAIRO TO DISCUSS ALL ASPECTS OF THE ISSUE SO AS TO CLARIFY TRUTH BEFORE ARAB WORLD AT LARGE.

5. IN FIRST REFERENCE IN EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPERS TO STATEMENT ITSELF,

AHRAM NOTES EX-COMM HAD CHARGED THAT A PARTIAL SETTLEMENT IN SINAI WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO BARTERING PART OF ARAB TERRITORY TO DETRIMENT OF WHOLE ARAB CAUSE. NEWS OF SADAT'S DECISION APPARENTLY CAME TOO LATE FOR EDITORIAL COMMENT.

COMMENT: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (CAIRO 519), EGYPTIANS ARE SICK AND TIRED OF HEARING THEIR ARABISM QUESTIONED BY PALESTINIANS FOR WHOM EGYPTIANS BELIEVE THEY HAVE SUFFERED FOR 26 YEARS AND FOR WHOM THEY ARE SUFFERING CRITICAL ECONOMIC SHORTAGES NOW. WITH HIGHEST ECHELON OF GOE STRAINING EVERY EFFORT TO OBTAIN SECOND STAGE SINAI DISENGAGEMENT, IDEALLY WITH SOME LINKAGE TO GOLAN DISENGAGEMENT, SADAT IS IN NO MOOD TO HUMOR PLO, PARTICULARLY IF, AS PLO EX-COMM'S STATEMENT WOULD SUGGEST, ARAFAT HAS MADE DECISION TO OPENLY STIR UP PUBLIC OPPOSITION FOR SADAT'S POLICY IN THE ARAB WORLD.

7. EGYPTIANS HAVE COME TO VIEW THAT RABAT MADE PLO SO STRONG THAT NO ARAB COUNTRY CAN UNILATERALLY CONTROL IT ANYMORE. NEVERTHELESS, EGYPTIANS BELIEVE THEY HAVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT MORAL LEVERAGE IN ARAB WORLD BY VIRTUE OF UNDISPUTED POSITION AS ITS LEADER. FURTHER, EGYPTIANS BELIEVE PALESTINIANS FULLY UNDERSTAND THE NECESSITY OF PLO'S MAINTAINING GOOD CONTACTS WITH AN ARAB COUNTRY WHICH HAS DIRECT CHANNEL TO USG, SINCE US, AS SADAT SO OFTEN POINTS OUT, IS ONLY COUNTRY WHICH CAN REALLY INFLUENCE ISRAEL. ONLY ARAB CANDIDATES FOR THIS USG/PLO INTERMEDIARY JOB ARE HKJ, WITH WHICH PLO WOULD NOT WISH TO WORK, SAG OR GOE. WHILE PLO IS OF COURSE DELIGHTED TO ACCEPT SAUDI MONEY, IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT ARAFAT WOULD RATHER WORK THROUGH REPUBLICAN EGYPT.

8. IN SUM, SADAT IS IN NO MOOD TO LET TAIL WAG DOG AT THIS EXTREMELY DELICATE STAGE OF DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS. NOR CAN HE AFFORD TO DO SO ON EVE NEW DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CAIRO 02258 281559Z

SINCE RABAT HE HAS CREATED RELATIVELY CALMLY TO OCCASIONAL PUBLIC DISPLAY OF PLO'S APPREHENSIONS THAT EGYPT SEEKS SEPARATE PEACE WITH ISRAEL, BUT HE WILL NOT ALLOW THOSE APPREHENSIONS TO JEOPARDIZE SECOND STAGE SINAI DISENGAGEMENT NOR WILL HE ACCEPT A PUBLIC INSULT. BY HIS ACTION TODAY, SADAT MAY EVEN BE TRYING TO FORCE ARAFAT TO MAKE HARD DECISION HE HAS SO SLICKLY AVOIDED SO FAR, VIZ., TO ALLOW SADAT TO PROCEED WITH STEP-BY-STEP NEGOTIATION UNIMPEDED. THIS WOULD MEAN A PLO POLICY WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARILY BASED ON TRUST IN GOE MOTIVES AND GENUINE BELIEF THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S APPROACH MOST LIKELY TO RESULT IN WEST BANK/GAZA STATE. IT IS UNDERSTOOD HERE, OF COURSE, THAT SHOULD ARAFAT MAKE SUCH AN ACT OF FAITH AND KISSINGER/SADAT APPROACH FAIL, ARAFAT WOULD DISAPPEAR ABRUPTLY FROM POLITICAL SCENE. THAT, HOWEVER, IS, IN EGYPTIAN VIEW, RISK ARAFAT SHOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE IF HE IS TO DESERVE CONTINUING EGYPTIAN

SUPPORT AS BEST AVAILABLE MODERATE PALESTINIAN LEADER.
EILTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO02258
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750071-0996
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975024/aaaaadaw.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SADAT REFUSES RECEIVE PLO DELEGATION SUMMARY. FOLLOWING ISSUANCE OF PLO EX-COMM'S WARNING TO ARAB
TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006